

As to claim 15, Applicant submits that Hedrick does not teach or show each and every element that is recited therein. Claim 15 recites, in part, "a computer controlled distributor for paying or crediting winnings." Applicant has carefully reviewed the Hedrick reference and is unable to find any teaching of this element. Hedrick discusses, "a coin tray 236 is provided beneath belly glass display 218 to collect coins from winning plays. When a user wishes to play the gaming machine 212, he or she inserts cash or coin through bill insertion slot 234 or coin slot 232." (Hedrick; col. 6, lines 23-23) Indeed, as the Office Action states, it appears that Hedrick only "discloses ... a distributor for paying winnings." In contrast, claim 15 recites, in part, "a computer controlled distributor for paying or crediting winnings." Applicant believes that the Hedrick reference fails to teach or show each and every element of claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and allowance of claim 15.

As to claims 16, 19, 23 and 26, since each depends from and further defines the patentably distinct claim 15, Applicant believes these claims are also patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and allowance of claims 16, 19, 23 and 26.

As to claim 27, Applicant submits that Hedrick does not teach or show each and every element recited therein. The Office Action states, "Hedrick discloses a plurality of video displays 220 and 221 (Fig. 2) mounted to an upper portion of the game housing." In contrast, claim 27 recites, in part, "a plurality of video display screens mounted to an upper portion of the housing; wherein the display screens are connected along upper and lower edges to adjacent display screens." Applicant has carefully reviewed the Hedrick reference and is unable to find any teaching of these elements. Figure 2 does not appear to show, and the discussion of the figure does not appear to teach all of the elements of claim 27, recited above. Indeed, the only relevant structural discussion of the gaming machine depicted in Hedrick's Figure 2 appears to provide "a gaming machine housing 212, a top glass 214, a belly glass 218, and a main display 220." (Hedrick; col. 5, lines 43-45). Applicant further submits that Figure 2 does not show the Hedrick "video display screens mounted to an upper portion of the housing," as recited in claim 27. Figure 2 also fails to teach or show a gaming machine "wherein the display screens are connected along upper and lower edges to adjacent display screens," as recited in claim 27.

Thus, Applicant believes that the Hedrick reference fails to teach or show each and every element of claim 27.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and allowance of claim 27.

As to claim 28, it depends from and further defines the patentably distinct claim 27. Applicant believes that this claim is also patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and allowance of claim 28.

### 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103 Rejections

Claims 1-12, 17-18, 20-22, 24-25 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hedrick et al. (US. Patent No. 6,135,884). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As to claim 1, Applicant submits that the Office Action has not presented a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). It has failed to provide a reference that when modified teaches or suggests each and every element recited within claim 1. The Office Action states, "Hedrick discloses an electronic gaming system which comprises ...two or more display devices 200 and 221 (Fig. 2)." In contrast, claim 1 recites, in part, "two or more display devices for presenting video images and audio sounds." Applicant has carefully reviewed the entire reference and is unable to find any teaching or suggestion of this element. The Hedrick reference appears to be solely directed at providing various visual information to a user through the use of video display technology. However, the reference does not provide any suggestion to provide audible feedback ("audio sounds," as recited in claim 1.) to a user, let alone combining audible and visual feedback to a user ("display devices for presenting video images and audio sounds," as recited in claim 1.), nor does it provide any motivation to modify its subject device to include this feature. Thus, Applicant believes that Hedrick fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1.

Claim 1 recites, in part, "a pair of vertical support members extending upward from the top side of the computer enclosure." The Office Action admits that Hedrick does not disclose a pair of vertical support members. But, the Office Action proceeds to state, "Hedrick does not explicitly disclose a pair of vertical support members. However, Hedrick discloses a support structure 323 (Fig. 3d) on which a display screen is mounted (Fig. 3d). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the support structure of Hedrick with the vertical support members in order to reduce support materials."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has not presented a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant believes Hedrick fails to provide a suggestion or motivation to modify its teachings to produce the subject matter recited in claim 1. "There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify or combine reference teachings." (M.P.E.P. § 2143.01). Applicant has carefully reviewed the Hedrick reference but is unable to find any discussion that teaches or suggests "a pair of vertical support members extending upward from the top side of the computer enclosure."

Claim 1 also recites, in part, "the computer enclosure and the wager and prize unit are separate units electrically connected by a communication cable in order to permit the wager and prize unit to be easily connected and disconnected from the computer enclosure." The Office Action admits that Hedrick does not disclose that the wager and prize unit is separated from the computer enclosure. Yet, the Office Action proceeds to state that "It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to separate the wager and prize unit from the computer enclosure, since separating or rearranging a part from an apparatus requires only routine skill in the art."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has not presented a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant believes Hedrick fails to provide a suggestion or motivation to modify its teachings to produce the subject matter recited in claim 1. "There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify or combine reference teachings." (M.P.E.P. § 2143.01). The supposition that "It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to separate the wager and prize unit from the computer

enclosure, since separating or rearranging a part from an apparatus requires only routine skill in the art," does not provide a proper basis to suggest or provide motivation to modify the Hedrick reference to produce, "the computer enclosure and the wager and prize unit are separate units electrically connected by a communication cable in order to permit the wager and prize unit to be easily be connected and disconnected from the computer enclosure," as recited in claim 1. A statement that modifications of the prior art to meet the claimed invention would have been "well within the ordinary skill of the art at the time the claimed invention was made" because the references relied upon teach that all aspects of the claimed invention were individually known in the art is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness without some objective reason to combine the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 USPQ 2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). See also *In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1371, 55 USPQ 2d 1313, 1318, (Fed. Cir. 2000). (M.P.E.P. § 2143.01).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claim 1.

Claims 2-14 depend from and further define the patentable distinct claim 1, thus Applicant believes these claims are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and allowance of claims 2-14.

Claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-25 and 29-32 depend from and further define the patentable distinct claim 15, thus Applicant believes these claims are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and allowance of claims 17, 18, 20-22, 24-25 and 29-32.

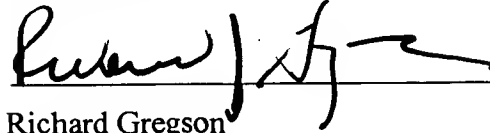
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please direct any inquiries concerning this application to the undersigned attorney at 612-336-4605.

Respectfully submitted,

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1/23/2002

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Gregson', is written over a horizontal line.

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